

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19 (Canceled)

20. (New) A method for providing customers of a network management portal secure access to customer information over a network, comprising:

allocating to each customer memory space in a secure storage area in a remote network node;

storing in a first memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction by a web application executed for said first customer;

transmitting to a requesting web browser a web page having an embedded link to said web application and said first customer information;

determining, by a security module invoked by said web browser, whether a requestor has been authenticated as said first customer by said portal, and, if not, requesting verification information from said requestor;

comparing, by said web application, previously-inputted or said requested verification information against said first customer's information stored in a user configuration database to authenticate said requestor; and

permitting, by said web application, said requestor access to said first memory space when said verification information matches said particular customer's information in said database.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein determining whether a requestor has been authenticated as said first customer comprises:

invoking said security module in response to said web browser parsing an attribute in said web application link during activation of said web page by said web browser;

determining whether said requestor has been authenticated or logged into said portal as said first customer; and

when said requestor is not authenticated or logged into said portal as said first customer, requesting, by said security module, that said requestor input verification information.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein storing in a first memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction comprises:

receiving a request from said first customer to generate a topology map;

display a list of topology map options for said requested topology map;

gather from the network topology map-related information based on customer-specified topology map options; and

storing in said first memory space said topology map-related information.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein prior to storing in said first memory space information resulting from performance of a network management transaction, the method further comprises:

providing to each of the customers at least one network service comprising at least one network management service for one or more of the at least one network service.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one network service further comprises one or more of internet service and email service.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one network management service comprises at least one of either monitoring and troubleshooting for said at least one network service provided to each of the customers.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said network management transaction comprises at least one of a group consisting of:

generating a network topology map for a partition of the network allocated to said first customer;

generating a status report based on inputs provided by said first customer; and

displaying performance attributes selected by said first customer.

27. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said remote network node comprises said network management portal.

28. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said web application comprises at least one of either a common gateway interface (CGI) program and a Java servlet.

29. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said web application link comprises a hypertext link.

30. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said first customer information comprises at least one of either images or data.

31. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said first customer comprises at least one of a group consisting of a management information system group, a network administrator, and an organization.

32. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said verification information comprises at least one of either a customer identifier and a customer password.

33. (New) A management information portal for providing customers access to customer information over a network, comprising:

- at least one processor;
- a secure data storage device coupled to said at least one processor;
- a user configuration database of customer verification information;
- a security module configured to determine whether a requestor has been previously authenticated, and, if not, to request verification information from said requestor; and
- a web application configured to allocate to each customer dedicated memory space in said secure data storage device, and to store in memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction by said web application executed for said first customer, to transmit to a web browser a web page having an embedded link to said web application and said first customer information; to compare previously-inputted or said requested verification information against said first customer's information stored in said database to authenticate said requestor; and to permit said requestor access to said first memory space when said requested verification information matches said first customer's information in said database.

34. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said web application link comprises an attribute the parsing of which causes invocation of said security application.

35. (New) The portal of claim 33 wherein said web application comprises a topology map module configured to receive a request from said first customer to generate a topology map, to display a list of topology map options for said requested topology map, to store in said first memory space topology-related information gathered from the network.

36. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said network management transaction comprises at least one of a group consisting of:

- generating a network topology map for a partition of the network allocated to said first customer;
- generating a status report based on inputs provided by said first customer; and
- displaying performance attributes selected by said first customer.

37. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said remote network node comprises said network management portal.
38. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said web application comprises at least one of either a common gateway interface (CGI) program and a Java servlet.
39. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said web application link comprises a hypertext link.
40. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said first customer information comprises at least one of either images or data.
41. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said first customer comprises at least one of a group consisting of a management information system group, a network administrator, and an organization.
42. (New) The portal of claim 33, wherein said verification information comprises at least one of either a customer identifier and a customer password.

43. (New) A computer readable storage medium on which is embedded one or more computer programs, said one or more computer programs implementing a method for securely accessing information over a network, said one or more computer programs comprising a set of instructions for:

allocating to each customer memory space in a secure storage area in a remote network node;

storing in a first memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction by a web application executed for said first customer;

transmitting to a requesting web browser a web page having an embedded link to said web application and said first customer information;

determining, by a security module invoked by said web browser, whether a requestor has been authenticated as said first customer by said portal, and, if not, requesting verification information from said requestor;

comparing, by said web application, previously-inputted or said requested verification information against said first customer's information stored in a user configuration database to authenticate the requestor; and

permitting, by said web application, said requestor access to said first memory space when said verification information matches said particular customer's information in said database.

44. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein determining whether a requestor has been authenticated as said first customer comprises:

invoking said security module in response to said web browser parsing an attribute in said web application link during activation of said web page by said web browser;

determining whether said requestor has been authenticated or logged into said portal as said first customer; and

when said requestor is not authenticated or logged into said portal as said first customer, requesting, by said security module, that said requestor input verification information.

45. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein storing in a first memory space allocated a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction comprises:

- receiving a request from said first customer to generate a topology map;
- display a list of topology map options for said requested topology map;
- gather from the network topology map-related information based on customer-specified topology map options; and
- storing in said first memory space said topology map-related information.

46. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein prior to storing in said first memory space information resulting from performance of a network management transaction, the method further comprises:

- providing to each of the customers at least one network service comprising at least one network management service for one or more of the at least one network service.

47. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein said network management transaction comprises at least one of a group consisting of:

- generating a network topology map for a partition of the network allocated to said first customer;
- generating a status report based on inputs provided by said first customer; and
- displaying performance attributes selected by said first customer.

48. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein said remote network node comprises said network management portal.

49. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein said web application comprises at least one of either a common gateway interface (CGI) program and a Java servlet.

50. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein said web application link comprises a hypertext link.

51. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 43, wherein said verification information comprises at least one of either a customer identifier and a customer password.